HAJ COMMITTEE, BOMBAY.

At a meeting of the Bombay Haj Committee held at Bombay on 2nd April 1918, the difficulties which are bound to arise in connection with this year's pilgrimage owing to the scarcity of shipping were discussed and the Committee authorised the following statement to be published:—

"The Bombay Haj Committee are of opinion that having regard to the great difficulty in obtaining ships, the pilgrimage should be restricted within the narrowest limits. No sailings have yet been fixed and shipping firms who have been approached on the subject have not yet given any reply, and there is every reason to suppose that there will be the greatest difficulty in obtaining even one ship. It is evident, therefore, that any pilgrims who come to Bombay in the hope of obtaining a passage, will be detained in Bombay for a considerable time in uncertainty as to whether a ship will sail. Should a ship sail, the cost of a passage will be very high and in the meanwhile pilgrims will have to meet the heavy expense of living in Bombay. If, on the other hand, no ship is obtainable they will have to return disappointed to their homes after spending money for nothing. In these circumstances which are unavoidable owing to the war, the Bombay Haj Committee strongly advise all intending pilgrims in their own interests, not to attempt to proceed on pilgrimage this year."

The Bombay Haj Committee would therefore request all local Haj Committees and Anjumans to take immediate steps to have these facts and their opinion widely circulated among intending pilgrims and would ask all members of such Committees and Anjumans to endeavour by their personal influence and by all means in their power to dissuade pilgrims from setting out.

(Sd.) F. A. M. VINCENT,
President.

By Order,
C. S. BALASUNDARAM IYER,
Chief Secretary to Government.